

Claims

1. Matrix particles comprising a plurality of inclusions of oil, preferably flavor or fragrance oil, dispersed within a matrix, the matrix comprising a crosslinked polymer and at least one
5 filler.
2. Matrix particles according to claim 1 comprising a cross-linked polymer derived from the group consisting of alginate and pectin, derivatives thereof or combinations thereof.
- 10 3. Matrix particles according to claim 1 wherein the cross-linked polymer is alginate.
4. Matrix particles according to any of the claims 1 to 3 comprising a filler selected from the group consisting of inorganic substances, preferably carbonates, silicates, sulphates, phosphates, more preferably magnesium carbonate, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate,
15 calcium sulphate, magnesium silicate, aluminium silicate, ground limestone, clay, talc, titanium dioxide, and organic substances, preferably cellulose polymers, derivatives thereof and combinations of any or all of the aforementioned substances.
5. Matrix particles according to any of the preceding claims comprising a filler, preferably in a
20 ratio of 2:1 to 1:2, more preferably 1.5:1 to 1:1.5, most preferably about 1:1 to the polymer.
6. Matrix particles according to any of the preceding claims comprising microcrystalline cellulose as a filler.
- 25 7. Matrix particles as according to any of the preceding claims wherein the discontinuous phase comprises oil and the particles comprise surface oil below 10% (wt/wt), preferably below 5% (wt/wt), more preferably below 3% (wt/wt), most preferably below 1% (wt/wt).
8. Matrix particles according to any of the preceding claims comprising at least one coating.
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9. Matrix particles according to any of the preceding claims comprising colouring matter.

10. Products comprising matrix particles according to any of the previous claims.

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11. Process for preparing matrix particles as described in any of the preceding claims, comprising

- i) forming an emulsion comprising a polymer, a filler, and oil,
- ii) forming matrix particles comprising a continuous phase containing a hydrophilic polymer and a filler and further comprising a discontinuous phase containing oil
- 10 iii) hardening said matrix particles by cross-linking the polymer
- iv) drying the cross-linked matrix particles